

*ABSTRACT AMENDMENT*

Replace the Abstract with:

The present invention is related to a method for the production of metal coated steel products, ~~comprising the~~ including steps of: providing a steel product with a metal coating; adding an additional metallic element ~~to said~~ to the metal coating; ~~subjecting said product~~ the metal coated steel product to a thermal ~~treatment,~~ treatment. The method is characterized in that: prior to the addition ~~of said~~ of the additional element, ~~said product~~ the steel product is subjected to a plasma treatment via a dielectric barrier discharge, for cleaning and activating the surface ~~of said~~ of the metal coating; ~~said additional~~ the additional element is added through a physical vapour deposition technique; ~~said thermal~~ the thermal treatment is applied by directing high energy infra red radiation towards the outer surface ~~of said~~ of the metal coating. The present invention is further related to an apparatus ~~comprising~~ including: ~~a means~~ a component for performing a plasma treatment on a metal coated product; ~~a means~~ a component for adding an additional element ~~to said~~ to the metal coating by using a physical vapour deposition technique; ~~a means~~ a component for directing high energy infra red radiation towards the outer surface ~~of said~~ of the metal coating.